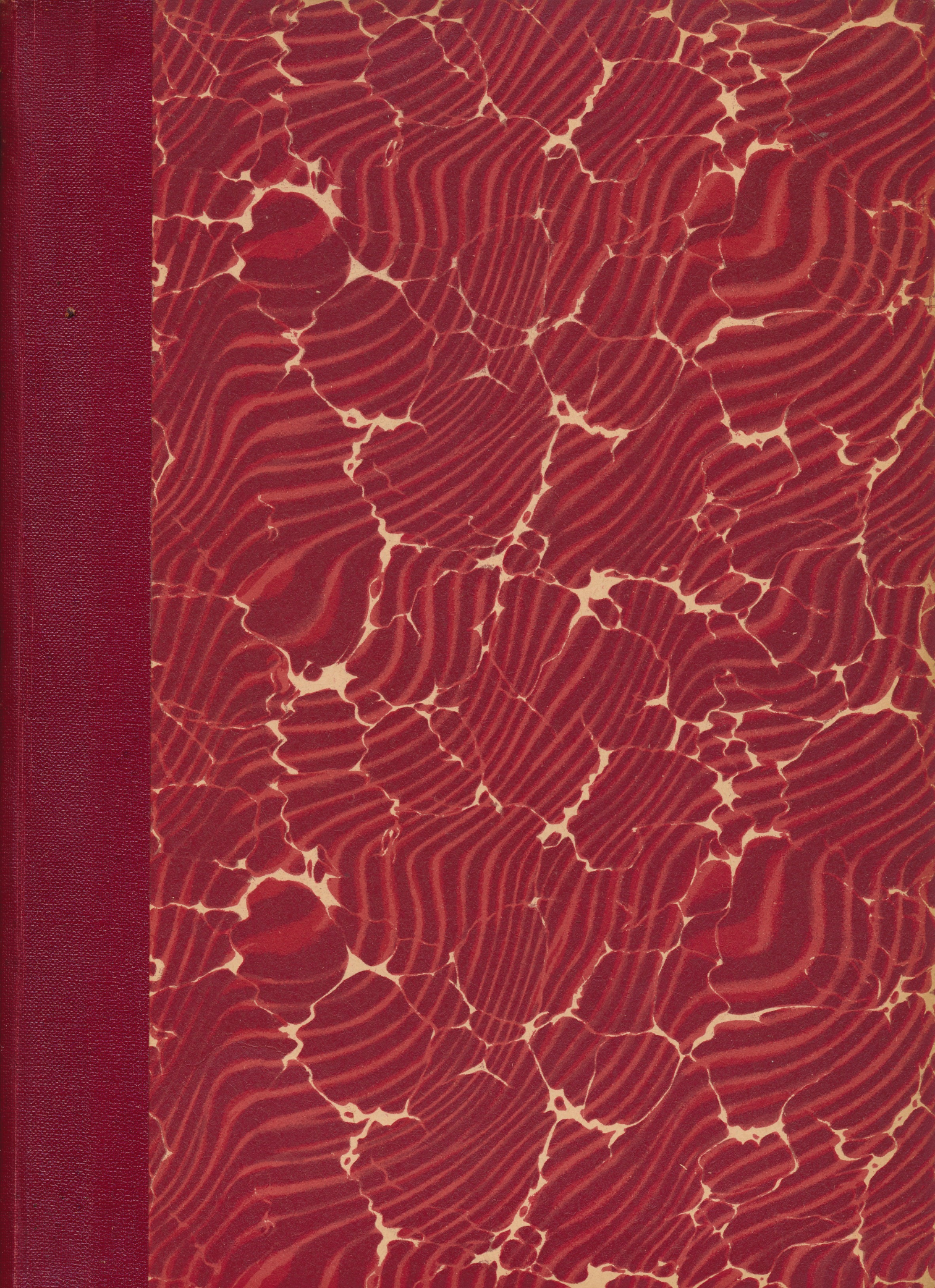


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Samuel Cleland



005

S A M U E L C L E L A N D

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Samuel Cleland was born near Gourdneck Lake, Kalamazoo county, Michigan, July 5, 1864, the fourth child of James and Sarah Rea Cleland, both of whom were born in Ireland, emigrated to America and were married in New York about one year after their arrival. The five other children in the family were:

Maggie, who married L. A. Mack, resided all her married life in Kendall, Michigan, and is deceased;

John, who married Dora Wilson and resided in Texas township until his death;

Anna, who was born when her family had returned to Ireland for a visit, married Fred Goodwin and is deceased;

Lizzie, who married Edward Gray and died in December, 1942;

Rea J., married Ella Taylor and resides at the time of this writing in 1943 in Kalamazoo.

As a boy Samuel Cleland attended the school near his home and helped his father on the farm in Texas township until he was twenty-one years of age, when he purchased a farm of his own.

November 17, 1891, he was married to Miss Olive

Molloy, who was born in Kendall, Michigan, December 8, 1874, the daughter of Thomas Richard and Martha J. Johnson Molloy, who were married July 23, 1872. Mrs. Molloy passed away in 1900 and Mr. Molloy in 1912. Olive had two sisters and one brother: Effie, who became Mrs. Eugene Edwards of Los Angeles, California; Jessie, who married Willard J. Miller and is deceased; and Burt, who married May Renauids and resides in Kalamazoo.

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Cleland started their married life on the farm Mr. Cleland had purchased in Texas township, where they continued to live for eleven years and where four daughters joined the family circle:

Vera, who married Lester Milham, became the mother of Marie Ellen and Helen Louise and resides in Kalamazoo, Michigan;

Cula, who married Carroll White, became the mother of Beverly and resides at Scotts, Michigan;

Helen, who married Lloyd Decker and became the mother of Marcia and Marilyn;

Sarah, who passed away at the age of one and one-half years.

In 1905, the Cleland family left tenants on the home farm, purchased a home with fifteen acres of land at 1802 Cork street, Kalamazoo, and resided there until Mr. Cleland passed away May 22, 1939,

and where Mrs. Cleland resides at the time of this writing in 1943.

Mr. Cleland was of medium height and weight. His hair was light brown and his eyes were blue. For recreation he liked to fish, read and listen to good music, but best of all to travel. With his wife as companion he drove his car into many states, once spending a half year in California. They also visited the southern states and Canada. Although he kept a lively interest in his farms, he had time to work with his hands at wood work. He built beautiful play houses for his grand children, taking pride in seeing their pleasure in the products of his efforts. He was an energetic worker and just and honorable in his dealings with all men.

Mr. Cleland was raised in a good home. In his boyhood and young manhood he attended the Methodist Church in Mattawan, but after coming to Kalamazoo to live he united with the Church of God, attended the services regularly and enjoyed the warmth of its fellowship. In politics, he was a Democrat.

To his home life, Mr. Cleland brought consideration and tenderness for his wife and daughters. He was above pettiness, was generous in his judgment of others, unselfish in all his relationships, lively in

conversation, interested in world affairs and a good citizen.

Mr. Cleland's life might be summed up in a paraphrase of the Scriptural text, He dealt justly, walked humbly and loved mercy. What more doth the Lord require of anyone!

Funeral services were conducted by the Reverend Henry Hartman of Battle Creek, Michigan, and the burial was in Riverside cemetery.



Dr Emma Cobb

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A CAMERA
PORTRAIT
By

L.C. Robinson—

KALAMAZOO
MICH.

414 W. MAIN ST.

E M M A H R O B A R C O B B .

Emma Hrobar Cobb was born the daughter of Joseph and Anna Serson Hrobar. The mother died in 1886 leaving three children, Rudolf, now of Chicago and Anna Stretch, now of Dowagiac. Dr. Cobb was taken by a family named John Earing and reared on a farm near Kempton, Illinois, where she helped with the work in the home.

Dr. Cobb received her early education in a rural school near Kempton then attended school in Emington where she worked for her room and board. Later she taught school and attended the Valparaiso Normal School. She received her B. S. degree in 1895. From 1900 to 1904 she was assistant Principal of the High School in Cullom, Illinois. On June 6, 1904 she was united in marriage to Dr. Horace Cobb, a graduate of the Chicago College of Physicians. They have raised two daughters, Gladys and Marguerite.

Dr. Emma Cobb spent the year of 1916 as Interne at the Littlejohn Hospital and was graduated from the Chicago College of Osteopathy in 1917 and has been practicing her profession in Kalamazoo since that time.

Since coming to Kalamazoo she has taken the following Post Graduate work:

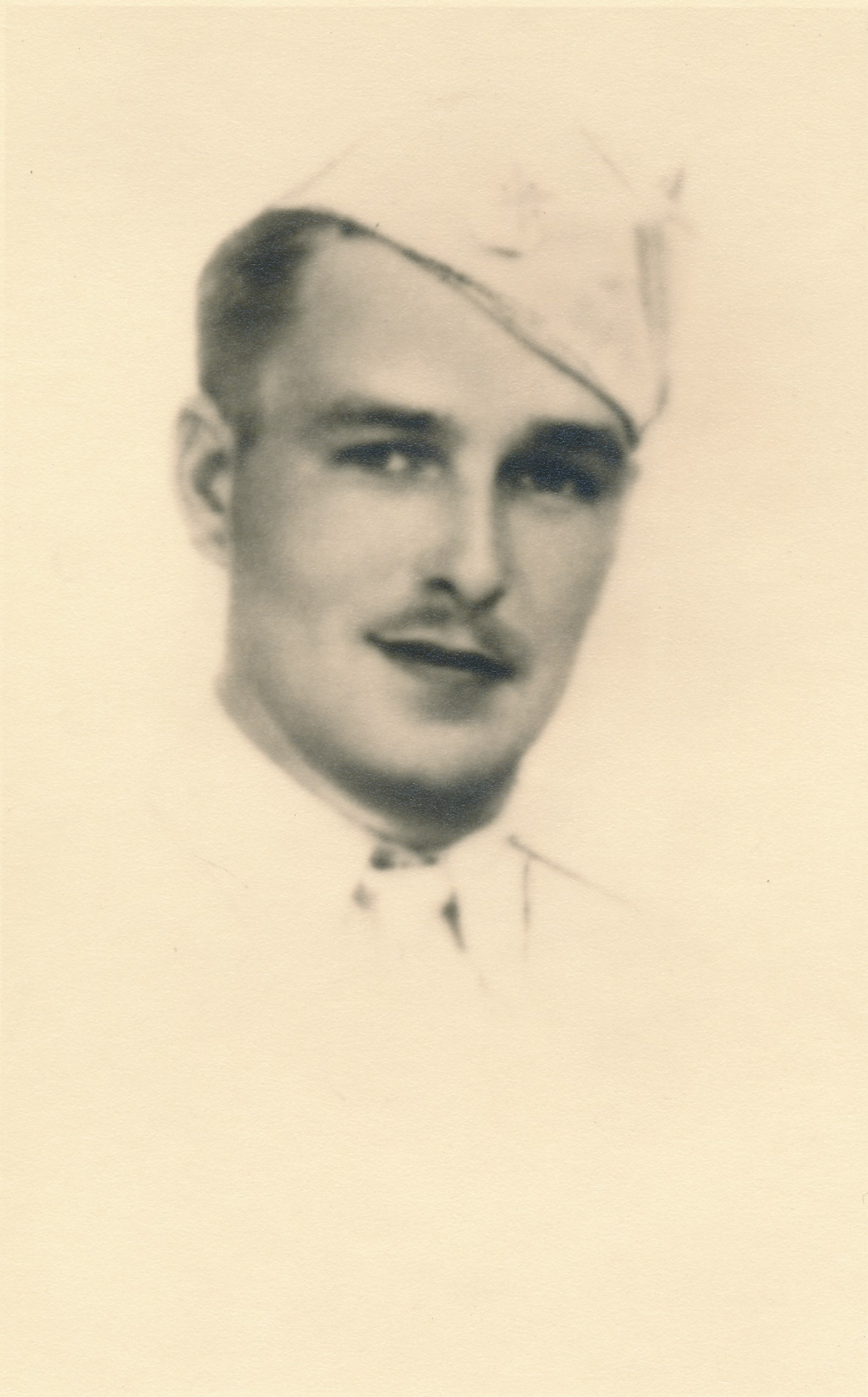
Dr. Edwards Finger Technique - 1920
Dr. C. H. Downing Feet and Body Technique - 1923
and 1925
Dr. Richardson Eye Work - 1925
Kirkville College of Osteopathy -
Physiotherapy - 1928
DeMoines Still College of Osteopathy - 1929

Dr. Emma Cobb is a Life Member of the American Osteopathic Association and the Michigan State Osteopathic Association. She is also a member of the Illinois Osteopathic Association; Osteopathic Womens Association, Illinois Branch, and also the Michigan Branch; the National O. W. N. A.; The Kappa Psi Delta Sorority; Business and Professional Womens Club of Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo Chamber of Commerce, First Methodist Episcopal Church, Twentieth Century Literary Club, Y. W. C. A., Order of Eastern Star and White Shrine of Jerusalem. She served two years, 1933-1934 as President of the Michigan Branch of the O. W. N. A.

Dr. Cobb has been called on to lecture on the National Osteopathic Convention Program four different times and has also lectured on the National O. W. N. A. Program on different occasions. For eight months she lectured weekly at Fairmount State Hospital and also lectured on health topics, weekly, for two years for the Eclipse Camp of Kalamazoo of

the Royal Neighbors of America under the direction of the head office of Michigan. She has also lectured over W. K. Z. O. and to many local organizations of the City. For the past nineteen years she has been examining Camp Physician for the Royal Neighbors of America and still holds that office at this time, 1936.

Dr. Cobb was one of a Committee of three to form the first Research Committee for Birth Control of the National Osteopathic Womens Association which met in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1935, at which time she gave a lecture on "Natural Processes for Birth Control" given before the Osteopathic Womens National Convention. This is written in 1936.



W I L L I A M R O B E R T C O B B

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When a National Guard contingent left Kalamazoo, Michigan, in November 1940, a tall, fine looking young man was one of the many who said "Good Bye" to family and friends. He was William Robert Cobb, who was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, May 11, 1919, the son of Lloyd Nathan Cobb and Nellie May Ranney Cobb.

Lloyd Nathan Cobb was born in Lake county, Michigan, June 12, 1880, the son of Lloyd Sylvester Cobb and his wife, whose maiden name was Truman. The home of this family was in Osceola county, Michigan. Lloyd had a half brother, Gerry Cobb, who served in the first World War, and a sister, Iva, both of whom reside in Lake county, Michigan, at the time of this writing in 1943. Lloyd passed away December 7, 1918.

Nellie Ranney was born in Allegan county, Michigan, June 18, 1888, the daughter of George W. and Luretta Foot Ranney. He was born near Rochester, New York state, January 1, 1862. Luretta Foot was born near Pearl, Allegan county, Michigan, April 11, 1862. Her father was killed in the Civil War in

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June 1862. Mr. and Mrs. George W. Ranney were also the parents of:

Myra, born September 30, 1879, married Orlo Mentor, became the mother of Lottie and Captolia and died about 1897;

LeRoy, born February 2, 1882, married (1) Katie Mudge, who passed away, and he married (2) Lillian Rymes, who became the mother of Juanita and died, after which he married (3) Dorothy Griffith and resides in Kalamazoo county, Michigan;

Lottie, born April 21, 1890, died two years and four months later;

Howard, born May 4, 1904, married (1) Grace Lee who became the mother of Myron and Lucille, (2) Ila Tackaberry - resides in Kalamazoo.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Nathan Cobb became the parents of the following in addition to the subject of this writing:

Nelson L., October 16, 1904, married Ruby Rymes, became the father of Lillian; Robert, who died at the age of ten years; and Nelson, Jr. and is a Lieutenant in the Aviation Corps;

LeRoy E., born April 9, 1907, married Hazel Tiller, became the father of LeRoy, Edward and Gary and lives in Kalamazoo, Michigan;

Stella, born April 21, 1909, married Victor Durkee, became the mother of Keith, Russell, James and Diane, resides in Kalamazoo, Michigan;

George, born June 26, 1911, is a private in the Army Aviation Corps;

Dorothy, born March 13, 1913, married Russell Durkee and became the mother of Russell, Madonna, Dorothy Jean, and Adrienne, and resides in Detroit, Michigan;

Richard, born December 9, 1914, and was killed in a railroad accident in Kansas, at the age of twenty-one years;

Ira, born July 16, 1916, served in the National Guard and is now a member of the State Troops, married Freeona Smith, became the father of Patricia, William and Gloria and resides in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

The Cobb and Ranney families descended from a mixture of the Scotch, English, Irish, Welsh and Dutch.

After the death of Lloyd Nathan Cobb, Mrs. Cobb was married to the husband of her deceased sister Myra, Orlo Mentor, who was familiarly known as "Dick", and he died May 31, 1941. Mr. and Mrs. Mentor became the parents of:

Winnie, born September 30, 1921, married Andrew Truax, became the mother of Andrea Lee and Esther Luella and lives in Kalamazoo, Michigan;

Floyd Glenn, born September 12, 1923, and is serving his country in the armed forces in Alaska;

Charles, born March 12, 1925, and died five months later;

Patricia Lucille, born [REDACTED], and lives with a sister in Kalamazoo, Michigan;

Raymond G., born December 12, 1928, and lives with his mother.

In September, 1942, Mrs. Mentor was married to John A. Mortorff, and they reside on the Atherley Road west of Kalamazoo, Michigan.

William Robert Cobb lived in Kalamazoo all but

Richard, born December 9, 1914, and was killed in a railroad accident in Kansas, at the age of twenty-one years;
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Patricia Lucille, born April 1, 1926, and lives with a sister in Kalamazoo, Michigan;

Raymond G., born December 12, 1928, and lives with his mother.

In September, 1942, Mrs. Mentor was married to John A. Mortorff, and they reside on the Atherley Road west of Kalamazoo, Michigan.
William Robert Cobb lived in Kalamazoo all but

two years of his life, when he lived with a friend of his mother's in Osceola county. Returning to Kalamazoo, he attended the Lincoln School and Central High School.

He became a member of Company C, 126th Infantry, National Guards and went with his outfit to Camp Beauregard, Louisiana, in October 1940. From there he was transferred to Camp Livingstone, then was sent to Fort Devons, Massachusetts. From there he went to Australia for a time and then on to New Guinea, where the forces of the United Nations were battling fiercely with the enemy. He had been made a Sergeant and was killed in action November 26, 1942.

William Robert Cobb, known to his friends as "Bill", was five feet, nine inches in height and weighed about 175 pounds, with medium brown hair, blue eyes and a fair complexion.

From boyhood he had found enough odd jobs to do to earn the money to buy his own clothes. He liked to box and play base ball, but his greatest recreation was fishing. He liked to read and enjoyed music and dancing.

Bill was neat in appearance, possessed an attractive personality that won him many friends, and was well liked by his buddies. His smile was

warm and his sunny face made him easily a favorite with his brothers and sisters. He liked children and everywhere he went the little folk flocked around him.

Bill belonged to the Kalamazoo Young Men's Christian Association and went to the building for bowling and other sports. He was a dependable lad, a kind brother and a good soldier. He gave every evidence of being a good citizen, who would do his part in any community in which he might live. His life was short, but William Robert Cobb laid it down for his country.

The following is a copy of his military record provided by the office of the Adjutant General of the State of Michigan:

Lansing, August 16, 1943.

I CERTIFY that the following appears in the official records of this office pertaining to

William Robert Cobb

who enlisted in the MICHIGAN NATIONAL GUARD on the 3rd day of June, 1937, at Kalamazoo, Michigan, Enlisted in Company C, 126th Infantry, June 3, 1937. Transferred to Hq. Co. 125th Infantry, January 10, 1938. Honorably discharged, March 18, 1938, on account of removal from station. Enlisted in Co. C, 126th Inf., May 12, 1938. Honorably discharged, October 2, 1940. Re-enlisted in Co. C, 126th Inf., October 3, 1940.

INDUCTED FEDERAL SERVICE, October 15, 1940. ASN - #20634411.

Grades: Pfc. July 6, 1939.

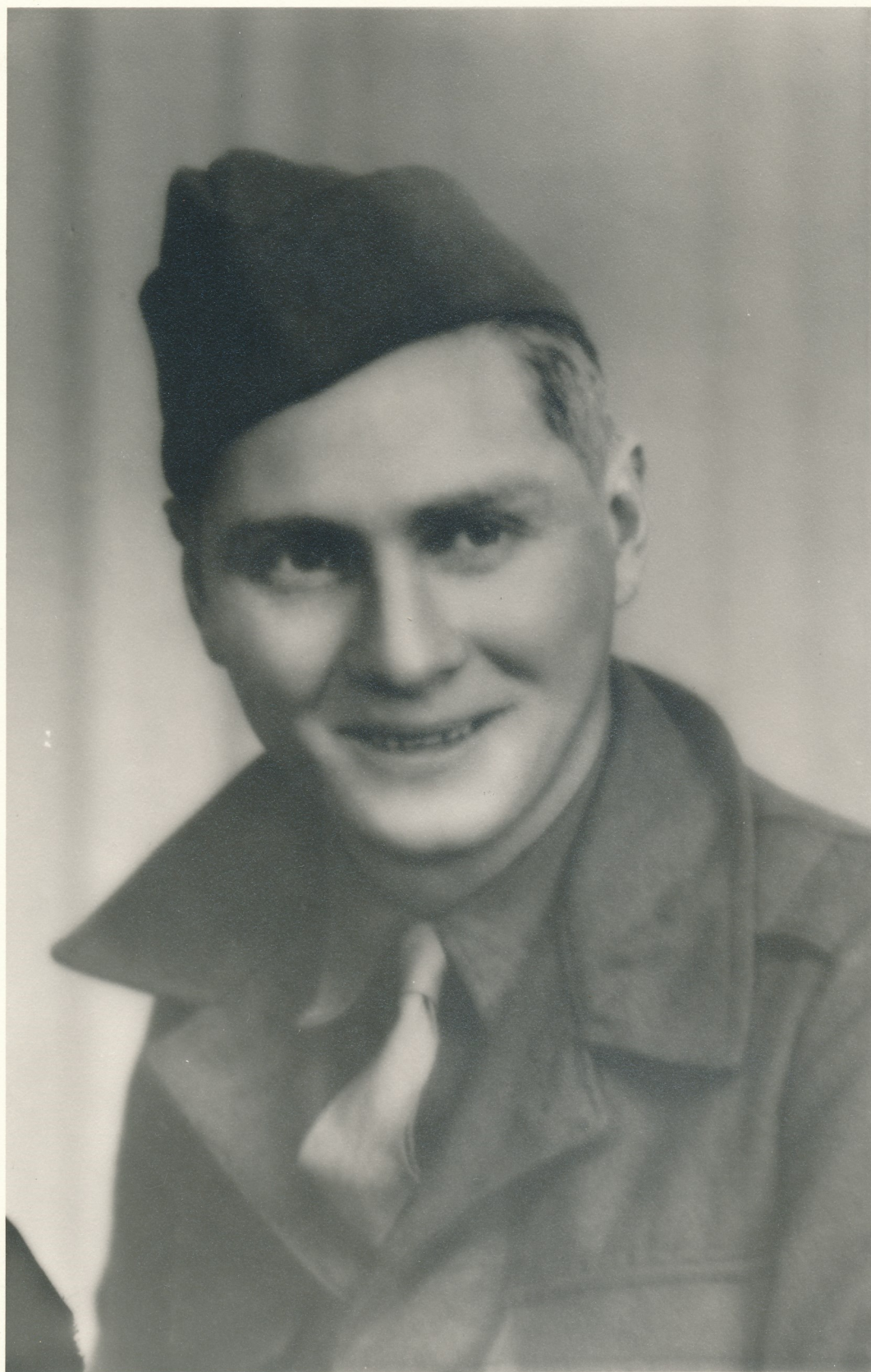
KILLED: November 26, 1942. Killed in action near

Buna, New Guinea on November 26, 1942. Buried near
Buna, New Guinea.

LE ROY PEARSON

Brigadier General

The Adjutant General of Michigan



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CLARENCE EARL COFFMAN

1921 - 1944

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When Clarence Earl Coffman was killed in action June 4, 1944, very few of the Kalamazoo Area members of the original New Guinea famed Company C, 126th Infantry remained active in the Southwest Pacific. As far as known they were Shirley Weber, the Scherenberg brothers, Dirk and Desmond, Sgt. Cooke, Wesley Souters, Sgt. Boerman, Pvt. Charles Cizewski and Pvt. Edward Kik.

"Red" Coffman was born In Kalamazoo, Michigan, September 27, 1921, son of Edgar Coffman, who was born in Ohio February 13, 1894, and his wife, whose maiden name was Ethel May Schwencer, born in Calhoun county, Michigan, November 1, 1890. They were married in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and were also the parents of:

Florence, who married Clyde Hamilton and resides in Parma, Michigan;

Clare, who married Loretta Rowe and they became the parents of Carol and live in Recreation Park;

Merle, who married Myrtle (Betty") Hoard and became the father of Nancy, Linda and Jackie and resides in Ypsilanti, Michigan;

Anna, who married Ray Hoard and became the mother of Norma and Roland and lives in Parchment, Michigan;

Gertrude, who married Albert Dekker and they became the parents of Albert and James and live on North Edward street in Kalamazoo, Michigan;

Robert, who married Doris Vincent in England while serving in the Army Air Corps; and

Alice, who married Bruce Squires, became the mother of Robert and resides in Kalamazoo, Michigan, while her husband is in the Medical Corps of the army.

"Red" attended Gull Road School and after he left school he worked on a farm near Eaton Rapids, Michigan. He was the only one in the family who preferred farm work to factory employment. After about a year and a half on the farm, he came home and enlisted in Company C, 126th Infantry, 32nd Division of the Michigan National Guard September 27, 1940. He was inducted into the Federal Service October 15, 1940, and soon went to Camp Beauregard, and Camp Livingston for maneuvers. In the late winter of 1942 he was transferred to Fort Devons, Massachusetts, and in April, 1942, he sailed with the 32nd Division for Australia.

Clarence Earl Coffman went through the bloody fighting of the Buna-Gona-Sanananda campaign without mishap and served with Captain Bush, Corporal Milo Marks and many other men of the Kalamazoo area who

Anna, who married Ray Hoard and became the
mother of Norma and Roland and lives in
Parochment, Michigan;

Gertrude, who married Albert Dekker and they
became the parents of Albert and James
and live on North Edward street in
Kalamazoo, Michigan;

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were victims of tropical fevers or were wounded in action and were sent home. Clarence apparently suffered no illls during all that desperate time when so many of Kalamazoo's crack fighting company were wiped out. Because so few of this company remained, Clarence was transferred to Company A, 126th Infantry, 32nd Division, with which he fought until his death.

Personal Characteristics

Because of his red hair, Clarence was affectionately called "Red" by his many friends. It was not strange that his hair was red considering that his mother and his paternal grandmother were both crowned with the same color. Along with his red hair Clarence also had the freckles characteristic of one with a fair skin and that color of hair. His eyes were brown.

"Red" was easy-going, warm-hearted, a very likable chap with many friends. He was especially fond of his two grandparents, who lived a few miles from his home. His little nieces and nephews were also dear to him.

Clarence attended the Methodist Church and Sunday school and believed firmly in their teachings. While in the army he attended chapel.

"Red" Coffman's Company is practically gone but the brave boys will never be forgotten by the citizens of Kalamazoo. As the name of Clarence Earl Coffman is inscribed on the Gold Star Honor Roll, the price this beloved son paid for the freedom of his country will be remembered with gratitude.

(Written in 1944)

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047
WARD EUGENE COLLINS M D

1883 - 1938

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Ward Eugene Collins was born on a farm in Hamilton township, Van Buren county, Michigan, September 27, 1883, son of John Henry and Mary Ellen Beattie Collins. He was the youngest in a family of three children. His brother, John Guy Collins, lives on a farm near Decatur. His sister, Fannie Jane, now Mrs. George B. Rogers, lives in Kalamazoo.

Ward Eugene Collins attended the rural school near the farm home and then went to the high school in Decatur, from which he was graduated in 1901. For one year he taught the school in the district where the farm home was situated and then decided to study medicine. In 1902 the family moved to Decatur. In the same year he entered the University of Michigan, in 1906 received his Bachelor of Arts degree, and in 1908 was made Doctor of Medicine. While in the University, he was a member of the Phi Rho Sigma medical fraternity. He served his internship at Henrotin Memorial hospital, Chicago, and in December, 1908, located in Kalamazoo. Soon

after coming to Kalamazoo, Dr. Collins was made city physician.

November 28, 1906, Dr. Collins was married to Ethel Ruth Lyle, daughter of Marshall and Mary McWilliams Lyle of Paw Paw, Michigan. They were the parents of Marshall Eugene Collins, who was born June 4, 1910.

On July 10, 1917, Dr. Collins was commissioned a first lieutenant in the medical corps of the army and was assigned to Base Hospital Unit 36 under command of Major Burt R. Shurley. The following August he went into active service. On October 27 he was sent overseas, sailing from New York. The hospital to which he was assigned in the St. Mihiel and Argonne offensives consisted of six large hotels in Vittel, France, a fashionable health resort, where the medical section to which he had been assigned cared for hundreds of cases of "flu" and pneumonia. September 4, 1918, he was made captain. He returned April 18, 1919, landing in Charleston, South Carolina. He received his discharge May 6, 1919, at Camp Custer, Michigan.

For two years after his return to Kalamazoo he served as a member of the Medical Reserve Corps and was promoted to the rank of major June 6, 1919.

Later he was obliged to resign in order to care for his medical practice.

In 1921 Dr. Collins pursued a special course in pediatrics at the University of Minnesota, following which he limited his practice to the diseases of children, a field in which he was unusually successful.

The esteem with which Dr. Collins was regarded by his associates is expressed in the following excerpts from a resolution adopted by the Kalamazoo Academy of Medicine on February 21, 1939:

"The Committee on Resolutions wishes to state its conviction that, in this case, no obituary can be worded well enough to adequately express the high estimations you already have of the subject. For Doctor Collins knew what to live for, and his deeds are their own eloquence. He won and held the esteem of his colleagues and the veneration of all who knew him.

"Doctor Collins lived at a time in the world's history when men of sterling qualities were most needed. His uprightness of character and devotion to his family helped maintain the unity of the home, at a time when the home as an institution had dwindled almost to a symbol. When democracy in the world was threatened he hastened to its defense, and served his country with distinction and honor. When the foundations of a great profession, his profession, were trembling from vexations within and onslaughts from without, it was his steadfastness in its ideals and principles that was ever a source of renewed inspiration to his associates.

"By his intimates Doctor Collins was often addressed as 'Dad.' This had no relative significance in years, as Doctor Collins never

became old. It was the recognition in his conduct, of a high appraisal of the exalted things in life, that found emphasis in this form of filial expression.

"It is not surprising then as his experience mellowed his judgment, to find his interest growing in that branch of his profession known as pediatrics. Here, in addition to a multiplicity of scientific demands, was to be found opportunity to encourage values seen early in life, and in their purest forms; innocence to protect; confidence to maintain; honesty to reward. For Doctor Collins was a man before he was a doctor - a fortunate sequence in our profession.

"But by far his greatest successes are to be found in his professional work. The records of his cases are marked by a careful history of the complaint, consideration of parental and family influence, dietary considerations, painstaking search for and evaluation of the physical findings, use of additional means of precision, and meticulous care in prescribing. These are the sign posts that lead to the only way that scientific medicine can travel safely. It is but commonplace to say that many today owe much in health and happiness to advice thus obtained.

"Doctor Collins was a charter member of the Clinical Club, a local medical society. He was a member of the Kalamazoo Academy of Medicine and served as its president in 1929. The pediatric section of the Michigan State Medical Society honored him as sectional chairman for a term. He was also a member of the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics. He took an active interest in the societies to which he belonged, not only for the opportunities they afforded to give to and to partake of the general fund of scientific knowledge, but as well for the part that was theirs to build up and to maintain a high professional consciousness among doctors."

Dr. Collins was an active member of the First

Presbyterian Church. Besides the medical associations mentioned above, he belonged to the Gorgas Memorial, the Outlook Club, and the Kiwanis Club.

Death came to Dr. Collins at Bronson Hospital at 2:10 Saturday afternoon, December 31, 1938, after a few days' illness caused by a cerebral hemorrhage. The funeral on January 2, 1939, was conducted by Dr. John Wirt Dunning, president of Alma College, formerly pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, assisted by the Reverend Charles Johnson. Burial was in the Lakeside cemetery, Decatur, Michigan.

Written in 1940

Francis Howell Colman



FRANCIS HOWELL COLMAN

1884 - 1942

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Francis Howell Colman was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, September 24, 1884, son of Howard G. and Sarah Howell Colman, and grandson of Francis Colman, who was for many years a prominent druggist in Kalamazoo and founder of the Colman Drug Store which was conducted by the Colman family for more than one hundred years.

Francis Howell Colman attended the Vine Street School in Kalamazoo and was graduated from Central High School in 1903, after which he assisted his father in the drug store, of which his father had become the manager following the death of Francis Colman. In the fall of 1904, Francis Howell entered Kalamazoo College, from which, four years later, he received the degree of Bachelor of Philosophy.

While in Kalamazoo College he was a member of the Glee Club and the Mandolin Club. He played in the tennis tournaments and although he was not a member of the base ball team, his popularity was such that he was elected captain. In academic work he excelled in history and all his life he read with

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appreciative interest the biographies of great men; also the writings of English prose writers, Dickens being a favorite.

From Kalamazoo College Mr. Colman entered the University of Michigan School of Pharmacy, where he continued his work each summer and in two years earned the degree of Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy. His musical interest also made him a member of the University Glee Club.

After graduation he secured a position as chemist with a large chemical company in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and after a short time returned to Kalamazoo to assume the management of the Colman Drug Store.

June 29, 1912, he was married to Miss Anne Miller of Parma, Michigan, and they made their home in Kalamazoo during their entire married life. She passed away October 26, 1938.

September 26, 1940, Mr. Colman married Mrs. Blanche Cunningham, who was born November 14, 1890, in Battle Creek, Michigan, the daughter of Francis and Elise DesMarty, both of whom were born in France where they were married and their oldest child was born, Mrs. Dewey Abbey, after which they came to Battle Creek, Michigan, where another sister, Laura,

260

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where they were married and their oldest child was
born, Mrs. Dewey Abbey, after which they came to
Battle Creek, Michigan, where another sister, Laura,

now Mrs. Benjamin Brown, was born, and is a nurse at the American Legion Hospital.

Blanche's marriage to Joseph Cunningham of Battle Creek was in 1915. His earlier work was that of district foreman for the Bell Telephone company, after which he took the Civil Service examination and organized and managed the Veterans' Bureau in Saginaw, Michigan, where his ability was recognized and he was promoted to the Detroit office. Three children came to the Cunninghams: Joseph, who married Anna Mary Wiswell and resides in Oshtemo with his mother; Mary, a graduate from Bronson Hospital, now nursing at Harper Hospital, Detroit, Michigan; Alice, who married Raymond Sowles, became the mother of Bonnie Kay and resides with her mother while her husband is in the Air Corps of the United States Army.

Blanche Cunningham Colman obtained her education in the Battle Creek schools and after the death of Mr. Cunningham in 1923 came to Kalamazoo and took training in the Kalamazoo State Hospital, was graduated as an attendant and, at the time of this writing in 1942, is Night Supervisor at the Colony Farm of the Kalamazoo State Hospital. She resides in her own home in Oshtemo, where Mr. and Mrs. Colman spent

now Mrs. Benjamin Brown, was born and is a nurse at the American Legion Hospital.

Blanche's marriage to Joseph Cunningham of Battle Creek was in 1915. His earlier work was that of district foreman for the Bell Telephone company, after which he took the Civil Service examination and organized and managed the Veterans' Bureau in Saginaw, Michigan, where his ability was recognized and he was promoted to the Detroit office. Three children came to the Cunnighams: Joseph, who married Anna Mary Wiswell and resides in Galesburg with his mother; Mary, a graduate from Bronson Hospital, now nursing at Harper Hospital, Detroit, Michigan; Alice, who married Raymond Bowles, became the mother of Bonnie Kay and resides with her mother while her husband is in the Air Corps of the United States Army.

Blanche Cunningham Colman obtained her education in the Battle Creek schools and after the death of Mr. Cunningham in 1923 came to Kalamazoo and took training in the Kalamazoo State Hospital, was graduated as an attendant and, at the time of this writing in 1942, is Night Supervisor at the Colony Farm of the Kalamazoo State Hospital. She resides in her own home in Galesburg, where Mr. and Mrs. Colman spent

the little less than two years of their married life. Mrs. Colman had early learned the "fine art of living" and made home a comfortable and happy place for her husband, who greatly enjoyed her sunny disposition and her warm, sprightly personality, whom he called the "sleepless wonder, the Oshtemo dynamo." With dark hair and eyes, about five feet two inches in height and weighing about one hundred thirty pounds, Mrs. Colman is a very attractive person.

Mr. Colman's health was failing and with abundant energy she poured love and devotion into her tender and skilful care of her husband, keeping her position as Night Supervisor at the Hospital and being companion and nurse to Mr. Colman during the day until he passed from this warm atmosphere of affectionate sympathy.

In personal appearance Mr. Colman was five feet eight inches tall, weighed about one hundred sixty pounds and had dark hair and eyes. In politics he was a Republican. He was a member of the Torch club and at one time belonged to the Masons; he also belonged to the Kiwanis club and served as a trustee of the Douglas Community House.

He was a world traveller and brought back from abroad many beautiful furnishings to adorn his home,

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He was a world traveller and brought back from abroad many beautiful furnishings to adorn his home,

where he delightfully entertained his friends with his ready conversational ability.

Mr. Colman was from early childhood greatly interested in music. His parents were members of the First Baptist Church in Kalamazoo, but when he had an opportunity to join the Boys Choir in St. Luke's Protestant Episcopal Church, he accepted it and sang there for four years and for two of those years he was the soloist, so it is not surprising that he united with that church. When in Kalamazoo College and the University of Michigan he joined musical clubs and when he returned to Kalamazoo he became a supporter of the Kalamazoo Symphony.

Death came to Mr. Colman September 13, 1942. The funeral service was in St. Luke's Church, conducted by the Reverend A. Gordon Fowkes and burial was in Mountain Home cemetery.

"When on my day of life the night is falling
And, in the winds from unsunned spaces blown,
I hear far voices out of darkness calling
My feet to paths unknown,

Thou who hast made my home of life so pleasant,
Leave not the tenant when its walls decay;
O Love Divine, O Helper ever-Present,
Be Thou my strength and stay!

Be near me when all else from me is drifting;
Earth, sky, home's pictures, days of shade and
shine,
And kindly faces to mine own uplifting
The love which answers mine."

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Death came to Mr. Colman September 15, 1948.

The funeral service was in St. Luke's Church, conducted by the Reverend A. Gordon Fowkes and burial was in Mountain Home cemetery.

"When on my day of life the night is falling
And, in the winds from unnumbered spaces blown,
I hear far voices out of darkness calling
My feet to paths unknown,

Thou who hast made my home of life so pleasant,
Leave not the tenant when its walls decay;
O Love Divine, O Helper ever-present,
Be Thou my strength and stay;

Be near me when all else from me is drifting;
Earth, sky, home's pictures, days of shade and
shine,

And kindly faces to mine own uplifting
The love which answers mine;

070



W I L L I A M D E A N C O M B S

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William Dean Combs was born in McConnell, West Virginia, now called Starlings, West Virginia, October 11, 1919, the son of Bert C. Combs and Sena Zurnes Combs of English and Irish descent.

Dean had one sister, Mrs. Alma Jean Combs Meeks, who resided in 1944 in West Virginia. He also had one brother, Nick Clide, who is now, 1944, in the service of the United States Army in England.

Dean attended school in Logan, West Virginia, after which he worked as a mechanic in a garage. He was also apt at carpenter work.

December 9, 1940, Dean enlisted in the United States army at Fort Benning, Georgia, and was sent to Fort Custer, Michigan, for basic training. He was assigned to Company F, 11th Infantry, 5th Division. While at Fort Custer he was promoted to Sergeant.

While stationed at Fort Custer, William Dean Combs was married to Miss Burdella Ann Lowe, of Kalamazoo, Michigan. She was born March 17, 1921, in Kalamazoo, the daughter of Frank and Agnes Lowe.

██████████, Mr. and Mrs. Combs became the

parents of Larry Joseph.

In April, 1942, Sgt. William Dean Combs was sent to Iceland, where he was stationed on a lava bed at an outpost, which was a very lonely spot, where he first encountered the enemy.

After eighteen months in Iceland, he was transferred to England in September 1943 and was sent from there to Northern Ireland and was promoted to Staff Sergeant and then to Technical Sergeant.

Dean was stricken with appendicitis and was sent to Llandudno, Wales, where he was operated on Easter Sunday, April 9, 1944. He lived only six days and died April 15, 1944. On April 18, 1944, he was buried with full military honors in Ireland. The pall bearers were: Active - Pfc. Lawrence Bredeson, Pfc. Wayne H. Butler, Pfc. Harold W. Dale, Pfc. Russel F. Deiter, Pfc. James E. Butterfield, Pfc. Ferdinand A. Butzloff.

Honorary: Sixteen N. C. O.s-Co. "F" 11th Infantry

Honorary Attendance:

Col. CHARLES W. YUILL, 11th Infantry, Commanding; Lt. Col. Philip W. Merrill, 2nd Bn., 11th Inf., Commanding; Major Cornelius W. Coghill, Ex. Off. 2nd Bn., Capt. John W. Acuff, Jr. and Capt. Quintin B. LeMonte, Former Co. Commanders; Lt. Charles B. Roggenstein, Former Platoon Leader; Capt. Kenneth E. Hughes, Co. "T" 11th Inf., Commanding; Company Officers: 1st Lt. Nathan F. Drake. 1st Lt. James E. Wright, 1st Lt. Kenneth R. Jones, 2nd Lt. Oscar B. Nelson, 2nd Lt. Charles S. Orne; Members of Company "F" 11th Infantry.

Flowers:-11th Infantry Regiment and Company "F" 11th

Infantry.

Personal Characteristics

Dean was six feet tall, weighed one hundred eighty-five pounds with curly brown hair, blue eyes and a fair complexion. He possessed a most pleasing personality and was a kind, warm-hearted, generous lad.

He was fond of sports and enjoyed foot ball, boxing and wrestling. He liked hunting and trapping and music. He enjoyed the companionship of his friends, of whom he had a host. He was a member of the Roman Catholic Church.

In a letter from his buddy, Technical Sergeant Cleophus Auvil are these appreciative words:

"Dean was respected by every soldier who knew him and he had many friends. He was one of the finest men who ever wore Uncle Sam's uniform. His work has not been done for nothing. He has trained and made a lot of good fighting men under his leadership."

On the certificate received by his parents from the United States government appears the following:

"He stands in the unbroken line of patriots who have dared to die that freedom might live and grow and increase its blessings. Freedom lives and through it, he lives!"

Dean liked army life, took it seriously and gave all he had. Taps have sounded for this brave young man, but his memory lives in the hearts of his family and friends.

076A



076B

Cornelia R. Comings

CORNELIA R COMINGS

1848 - 1937

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Cornelia Ruth Daniels, daughter of David H. and Mary Brown Daniels, was born in Richland October 3, 1848 and passed away at Galesburg April 20, 1937.

She was married at Richland on April 16, 1879, to Sherman Comings of Galesburg. Two sons were born to them, James R. and Harris D.

She came of pioneer stock, her maternal grandparents coming to Richland in 1831 from Brimfield, Massachusetts, her own parents in 1832. Her husband's people came from Vermont to Galesburg in 1830.

She was very active and took a great interest in the Congregational Church, the Eastern Star and the D. A. R.

Her husband died September 17, 1913.



080

James R Comings

James Ripley Comings

JAMES RIPLEY COMINGS

1882 - 1942

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James Ripley Comings was born on the family homestead one mile west of Galesburg, Michigan, November 9, 1882, son of Sherman Comings. This homestead was built by his grandfather, James R. Comings, in 1858, and this brick homestead has stood for eighty-four years as one of the county's most beautiful and picturesque landmarks. It is located on United States Highway No. 12 and has nearly twenty spacious rooms. It was the third homestead erected in that immediate section and James Ripley Comings resided there all his life.

The mother of James Ripley Comings was Cornelia Daniels Comings, who was very influential in the life of the community, preserving the family tradition of church and social life, and whose father, David Daniels, built the Yorkville Community Church.

The Congregational Church in Galesburg was organized in the home of one of the ancestors of James Ripley Comings and the brick in the church building were made on the Comings farm, the organiza-

tion taking place in 1835.

James Ripley Comings received his elementary and high school education in the Galesburg public schools and immediately after graduation engaged in farming at the homestead. Like his father and grandfather before him, he became a leader in the agricultural life of the county.

October 4, 1905, he was married to Medea Belle Briggs, who was born in Pavilion township, Kalamazoo county, Michigan, July 7, 1886, daughter of Sylvester and Winona Ramsdell Briggs, and they became the parents of:

Winona Viola, born October 2, 1906, married Merle Chapin and became the mother of Betty Jane, born September 14, 1927, James Robert, born April 26, 1930, David Merle, born March 30, 1932, and Mary Lee, born [redacted], and resides at 1615 Charles avenue, Kalamazoo, Mich.;

Cornelia Catherine, born April 1, 1908, married George Mowry, became the mother of George Richard, born January 25, 1927, and resides in Otsego, Michigan;

Sherman, born June 22, 1909, married Katerine Louvina Yates, is a sergeant in the 6th Service Armed Military Police of the United States Army, stationed at Camp Skokie, Glenview, Illinois; and

Barnet James, born July 24, 1918, died February 12, 1919.

In 1912, James Ripley Comings was elected supervisor of Comstock township and served seven

tion taking place in 1835. James Ripley Comings received his elementary and high school education in the Galveston public schools and immediately after graduation engaged in farming at the homestead. Like his father and grandfather before him, he became a leader in the agricultural life of the county.

October 4, 1905, he was married to Helen Belle Briggs, who was born in Pavilion township, Kalamazoo county, Michigan, July 7, 1886, daughter of Sylvester and Winona Ramsdell Briggs, and they became the parents of:

- Winona Viola, born October 2, 1906, married Marie Chapin and became the mother of Betty Jane, born September 14, 1927, James Robert, born April 26, 1930, David Marie, born March 30, 1932, and Mary Lee, born July 28, 1942, and resides at 1613 Charles avenue, Kalamazoo, Mich.
 - Cornelia Catherine, born April 1, 1908, married George Henry, became the mother of George Richard, born January 25, 1927, and resides in Chicago, Michigan.
 - Bernard, born June 22, 1909, married Katherine Louvina Yates, is a sergeant in the 6th Service Armed Military Police of the United States Army, stationed at Camp Skokie, Glenview, Illinois; and
 - Barnes James, born July 24, 1918, died February 12, 1919.
- In 1912, James Ripley Comings was elected supervisor of Comstock township and served seven

consecutive terms on the board and was chairman of the board in 1915.

In January 1919, Mr. Comings was appointed business manager of Fairmount hospital, the county operated contagious disease hospital and for twenty-three years in succession he administered with marked success the business affairs of that institution.

He served several terms on the school board at Galesburg as did his father.

Mr. Comings was a member of the Galesburg Masonic lodge, the DeWitt Clinton Consistory of Grand Rapids, and the First Congregational Church of Galesburg, where he served as a valued trustee.

Although business activities required much of his time, he found it possible to arrange for vacations which permitted him to engage in his favorite sport - hunting. He went deer hunting in the Upper Peninsula every year, and also took occasional fishing trips.

Another of his hobbies was books. He found many hours of enjoyment and relaxation with the hundreds of books in his library and music room, his collection being of rare value. Most of his time away from his work was spent with his family

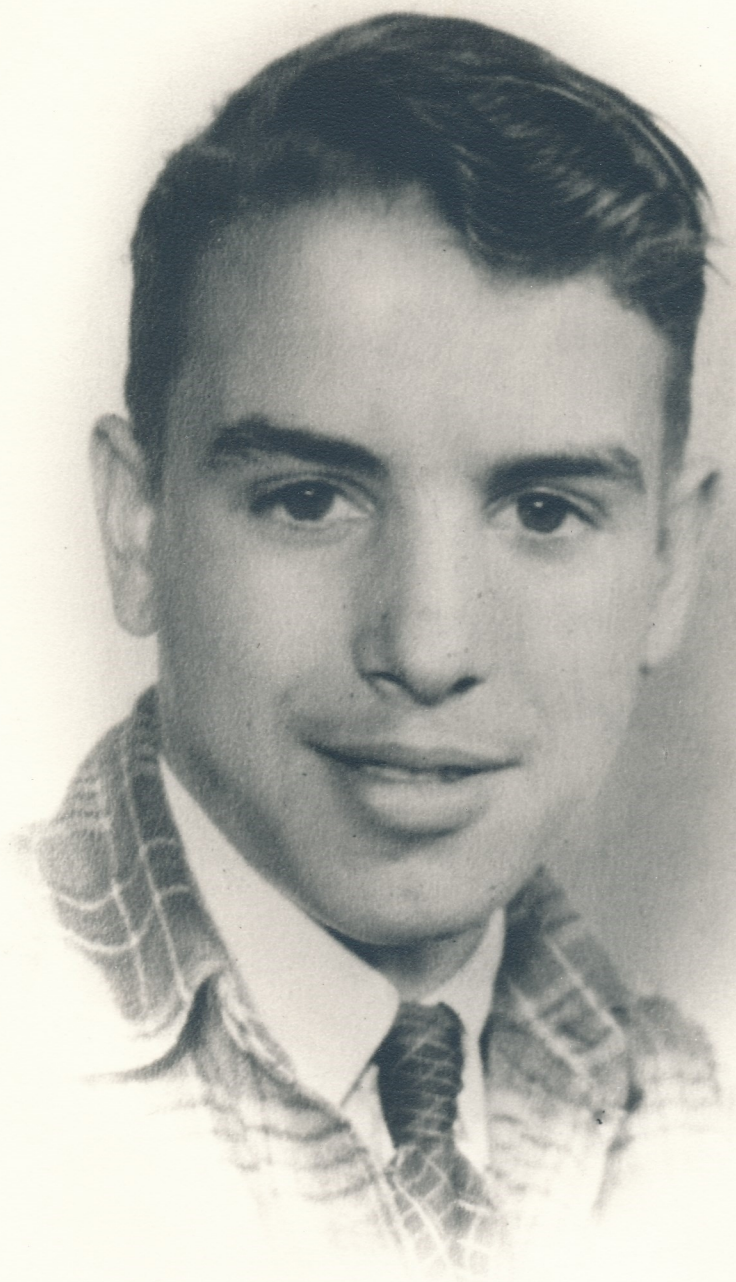
at the homestead. He also found much pleasure in taking photographs with his moving picture camera and showing them to his many friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Comings celebrated their thirty-seventh wedding anniversary at their Gull Lake home, the same cottage where they spent their honeymoon.

He was a devoted husband and father, a man ever thoughtful of his friends, calling on the sick, generous in his help, and ever eager to promote the finer aspects of community and social life.

Death came suddenly to Mr. Comings with a heart attack at one o'clock Saturday afternoon, October 10, 1942.

The funeral service was conducted from the First Congregational Church in Galesburg by the pastor, the Reverend H. A. Miles and interment was in Oak Grove cemetery, Galesburg.



093

EUGENE EDWIN COMSTOCK

1924 - 1945

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Mr. Charles Comstock, father of Eugene, received a letter from the War Department of the United States dated December 27, 1945, which reads as follows:

"Dear Mr. Comstock:

"I have the honor to inform you that, by direction of the President, the Silver Star has been posthumously awarded to your son, Technician Fifth Grade Eugene E. Comstock, Medical Department. The citation is as follows:

SILVER STAR

"For gallantry in action on Luzon, Philippine Islands, on 21 April 1945 at approximately 1600 hours a patrol of which Technician Comstock was a part proceeded from regimental headquarters, through the thick underbrush toward the enemy stronghold. They were traveling southeast when they came upon a clearing, the two lead scouts proceeded cautiously across in advance of the main body of the patrol. A Japanese machine gun defending the area unleashed a hail of fire killing one man and wounding the other. Technician Comstock realized the men were badly injured and in need of immediate medical attention. On his own volition and with utter disregard for his own personal safety and welfare he attempted to reach the wounded men. Without waiting for direction from his superior officer he made his way across the clearing toward the stricken soldiers, but was killed by the enemy machine gun fire before he could succeed. The gallant action by which a member of the Medical Corps gave his life in behalf of a stricken soldier was an inspiration to all who

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saw him and exemplifies the highest in military traditions."

Birth and Education

Eugene was born in Wabash, Indiana, October 29, 1924, son of Charles M. and Lillian Autschun Comstock. Charles M. Comstock was also born in Wabash, Indiana, and the date was February 17, 1892. He was a soldier in World War I and served eighteen months. He also saw service on the Mexican border. His grandfather was a soldier in the Civil War. Ancestors were Scotch and Irish.

Eugene's mother was also born in Wabash, Indiana, and the date of her birth was July 10, 1898. She was of German and Polish descent.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Comstock were married in Michigan and reside now, in 1946, at 602 Lake street in Kalamazoo, Michigan. They also became the parents of:

Richard Earl, born October 17, 1919, in Kalamazoo, Michigan, married Dorothy Peterson of Galesburg, Illinois, was a Sergeant with an engineering regiment in Germany in World War II and resides in Kalamazoo, Michigan;

Viola M., born May 13, 1929, in Kalamazoo, Michigan, resides with her parents; and

Thelma L., born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, [redacted], also lives with her parents.

Eugene was educated in the Vine Street, Brucker and Central High Schools. He entered Central High

in his sophomore year and later left school to go to work at the Purity Bakery and attended a part time school. He worked at the bakery for about two years and then went to the Bryant Paper Mill, where he worked about three weeks when he was called into the armed services of the United States March 22, 1943.

Eugene received his basic training at Camp Robinson, Arkansas, and was sent overseas in August, 1943, without having had a furlough. He was with the Medical Detachment, 158th Infantry Unit No. 1. His serial number was 36458905.

He was in combat in New Guinea, was stationed at Luzon and Dutch New Guinea and lost his life in a section south of Camilig, Albay Province, Luzon, Philippine Islands. His body was buried in the U. S. A. F. Cemetery, Legaspi Port, No. 1, Plot 1, Row 10, Grave 94.

Personal Characteristics

Eugene as a boy belonged to the Boy Scouts of America and the Sea Scouts and enjoyed out of door life. He liked to camp out and was an ardent fisherman. He went hunting occasionally and liked to skate on the ice. He practiced on his harmonica and drum and whiled away many hours in that way. He also liked the radio music.

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Eugene was taller than average, being well over six feet and very slender. He had fair hair and brown eyes.

He was always full of fun and happy, looking on the optimistic side of life. He was energetic and full of ambition to work and make good. He liked paper making and wanted to go on with that occupation and learn more about it.

Eugene was gay of manner and friendly and obliging and thereby won many friends and kept them. He was very popular and was always thoughtful of his parents, his brother and sisters, all of whom he loved dearly.

Excerpts From Letters

Eugene was Captain Martin Greenwald's assistant and he wrote:

"Eugene had worked with me for almost a year and our friendship was a very close one. His passing on is deeply regretted by the officers and men of our medical detachment.

"We will never forget our friends who have made the supreme sacrifice, and their memory serves as a driving force in making us more determined than ever to destroy the enemy."

Captain Leonard DeMoor, a Chaplain, wrote:

"It should be a great comfort to you to know that a chaplain from the Presbyterian Church, U. S., buried him.

"The reason that I am writing you is because I, too, come from Kalamazoo, Michigan."

Eugene was taller than average, being well over six feet and very slender. He had fair hair and brown eyes. He was always full of fun and happy, looking on the optimistic side of life. He was energetic and full of ambition to work and make good. He liked paper making and wanted to go on with that occupation and learn more about it. Eugene was gay of manner and friendly and obliging and thereby won many friends and kept them. He was very popular and was always thoughtful of his parents, his brother and sisters, all of whom he loved dearly.

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"The reason that I am writing you is because I, too, come from Kalamazoo, Michigan."

In addition to the Silver Star Eugene was awarded the Purple Heart posthumously and shared in a company awarded commendation.

Chaplain McDill officiated at his burial.

"Now the soldier's task is o'er,
Now the battle day is past,
Now upon the farther shore
Lands the voyager at last.
Father, in Thy gracious keeping
We leave him, Thy soldier, sleeping."

Edward Charles Connon



105
E D W A R D C H A R L E S C O N R O N

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Edward Charles Conron was born in Lockport, New York, September 2nd, 1879, the only child of Edward Charles and Barbara Conron of New York. The family moved to Kalamazoo, Michigan, in the boy's childhood, where Edward attended the public schools and was graduated from Central High.

July 11, 1911, he was married to Miss Esther Goodrich of Kalamazoo, the daughter of Lucius and Cora Schug Goodrich, the wedding taking place in Joliet, Illinois.

The newly married couple began housekeeping in Joliet and lived there for a short time and then returned to Kalamazoo, where they made their home until 1920, when they moved to Bay View, Gull Lake, and established a sandwich shop, which he owned and managed until his death.

Mr. Conron was a life-long Democrat, active in his party and faithful to its adherents and its

program. He was popular in political circles and for a number of years held the office of Justice of the Peace. Later he was elected to the office of Township Treasurer and upon the death of William Greer in May 1940 was appointed Supervisor of Ross Township. At the next election the voters returned him to that office.

While Mr. Conron enjoyed some fishing and water sports, he did not indulge in them to any great extent as did some of his neighbors. His home, his business and the responsibilities of the public offices which he held, claimed his interest and attention.

Mr. Conron was a genial, affable man, of good appearance, who made friends easily and retained them. His hair was brown and so were his eyes. His height was about five feet seven inches and he weighed about one hundred thirty-five pounds. His taste was for the better things and he enjoyed reading and good conversation.

Death came to him quickly on November 10, 1941, and Edward Charles Conron responded to the summons. Funeral services were conducted at the Garrett Funeral Home in Augusta, Michigan, by the Reverend A. R. Elliott, at that time pastor of the Community

Methodist Church and burial was in Riverside cemetery, Kalamazoo.

Mr. Conron was fond of the poems of Robert Burns and the following quotation is a fitting close to the story of his life:

"Then let us pray that come it may, -
 As come it will for a' that, -
 That sense and worth, o'er a' the earth,
 May bear the gree, and a' that.
 Its comin' yet, for a' that -
 That man to man, the world o'er,
 Shall brithers be for a' that."

Methodist Church and burial was in Riverside cemetery

Kalamazoo.

Mr. Gordon was fond of the poems of Robert

Burns and the following quotation is a fitting close

to the story of his life:

"Then let us pray that come it may, -

As come it will for a' that, -

That aches and wrath, o'er a' the earth,

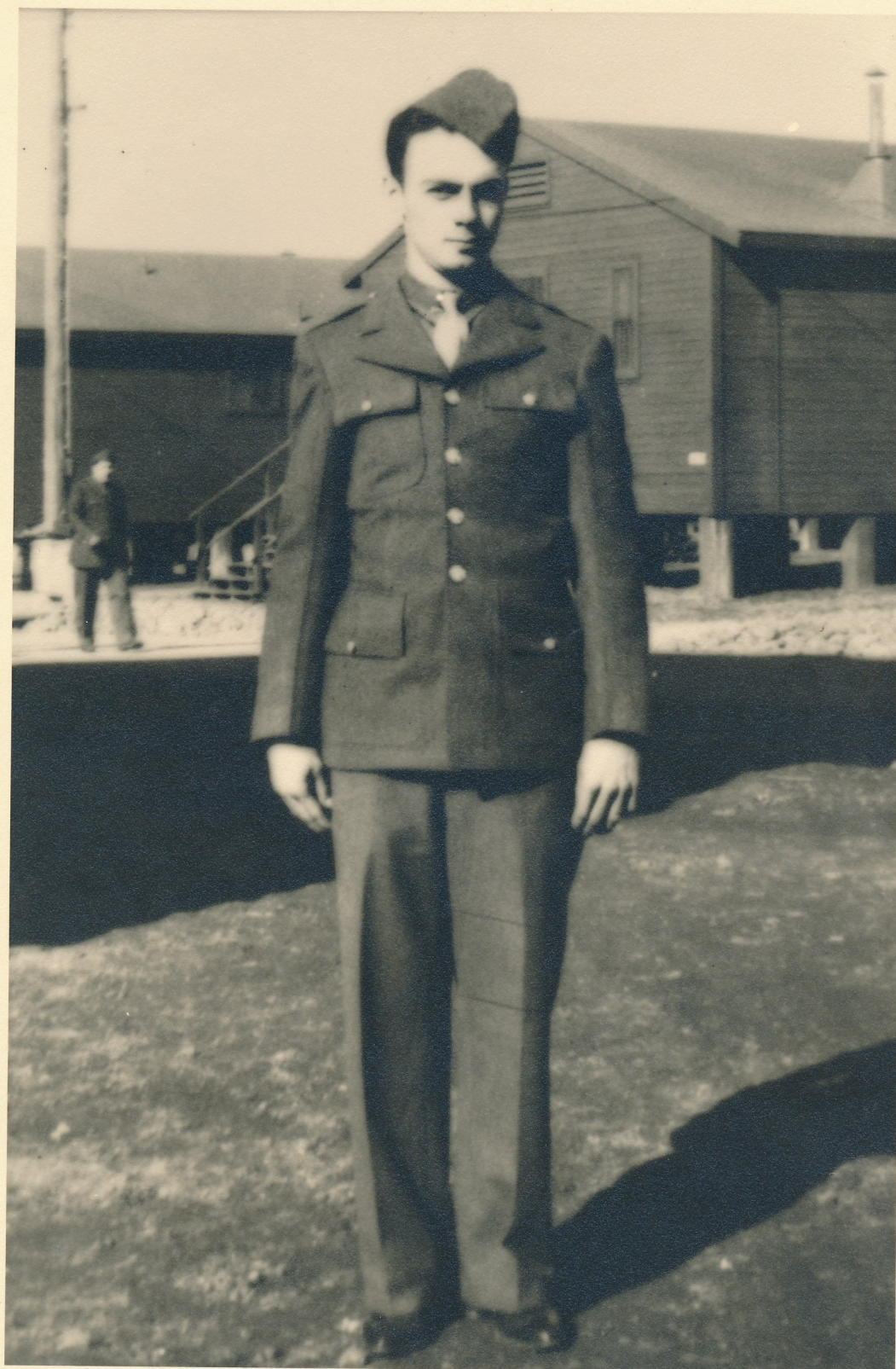
May bear the grief, and a' that.

Its coming, yet, for a' that -

That man to man, the world o'er,

Shall brothers be for a' that."

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113

M O R R I S O N W A L N C O N R O W

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"He died in the service of his country."

These words are indelibly written concerning Morrison Waln Conrow, who was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, October 22, 1920, the only child of Morris Waln Conrow and Anna Marie Eberle Conrow.

Morris Waln Conrow was born in Wilmington, Delaware, August 21, 1890. His father was Joseph Darnell Conrow, who was born December 20, 1853, of English descent. His mother was Lavinia Myers Conrow of German descent.

Anna Marie Eberle was born in Peru, Indiana, the daughter of John William and Lillie Belle Ford Eberle, the former of German and the latter of English descent. The date of Anna Marie's birth was June 29, 1895. The date of her marriage to Morris Waln Conrow was July 15, 1914, which took place in Peru, Indiana, the Reverend Mr. Bridge, a Methodist minister, officiating.

Mr. and Mrs. Morris Waln Conrow began house-keeping in Peru, Indiana, where he was employed as a final inspector of automobiles by the Great

Western Automobile Company. They lived in Peru for one year, when Mr. F. B. Lay of Kalamazoo, Michigan, purchased this company and invited Mr. Conrow to come to Kalamazoo to work for him, as Mr. Conrow was an expert workman.

In Kalamazoo, Mr. and Mrs. Conrow resided first at 822 Academy street, where Morrison was born. When he was four years old the family moved to Elgin, Illinois, where Mr. Conrow was employed by the Harry Hintz Company as salesman for Dodge trucks. They stayed in Elgin until 1927 and Morrison had his first year in school. That year the family returned to Kalamazoo and resided at 1419 Lay Boulevard. Morrison attended the Washington School and was graduated from Central High School in 1939. July 1, 1940, Mr. and Mrs. Conrow purchased the home at 1911 Cameron street.

Morrison Waln Conrow had worked summer vacations in Kilgore's Service Station at the corner of Bryant and Portage streets and after graduation remained for a time at this work. His last employment was as stockman for the Bell Telephone Company.

January 1, 1942, he was married to Francine Gates by Father A. G. Fowkes, rector of St. Luke's Protestant Episcopal Church, of which Morrison was a

member. Francine Gates was born July 13, 1919, the daughter of Kenneth Gates, who was born June 27, 1875, and Nellie Hill Gates, who was born July 25, 1885, and has a twin sister, Della, who married Peter Benedict. Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Gates were residents of Allegan, Michigan, where their daughter Francine was graduated from the high school. They were also the parents of:

Stanton, who was born July 4, 1907, married Dexie Johnson and became the father of Kenneth, Dexie Louise, Richard and Charles and resides in Kalamazoo;

Marilla, who was born November 14, 1908, married Morris Carl and became the mother of June and resides in Kalamazoo;

Bernadine, who was born May 9, 1911, married
(1) Basil Allen and became the mother of Robert, Sandra, Albert, Jan Gale and Marva Allen,
(2) George Baker and became the mother of Betty June and Diana and resides in Bloomingdale, Michigan.

Mr. and Mrs. Morrison Waln Conrow became the parents of Morrcene, who was born [REDACTED].

On November 15, 1942, Mr. Conrow was inducted into the United States Army and on November 30, 1942, was sent to Camp Grant. Later he was transferred to Company B, 93rd Battalion of the 13th Armored Reconnaissance Division and was in training as a radio operator. On April 5, 1943, during maneuvers, the truck in which he was working

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member. Francine Gates was born July 13, 1919, the daughter of Kenneth Gates, who was born June 27, 1875, and Nellie Hill Gates, who was born July 23, 1885, and has a twin sister, Della, who married Peter Benedict. Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Gates were residents of Allegan, Michigan, where their daughter Francine was graduated from the high school. They were also the parents of:

Stanton, who was born July 4, 1907, married Dixie Johnson and became the father of Kenneth, Dixie Louise, Richard and Charles and resides in Kansas;
 Nellie, who was born November 14, 1908, married Morris Carl and became the mother of June and resides in Kansas;
 Bernadine, who was born May 9, 1911, married (1) Basil Allen and became the mother of Robert, Barbara, Albert, Jan Gale and Marvin Allen.
 (2) George Baker and became the mother of Betty Jane and Diana and resides in Bloomington, Michigan.

Mr. and Mrs. Morrison Wain Gornow became the parents of Norrene, who was born September 3, 1942. On November 15, 1942, Mr. Gornow was inducted into the United States Army and on November 30, 1942, was sent to Camp Grant. Later he was transferred to Company B, 93rd Battalion of the 1st Armored Reconnaissance Division and was in training as a radio operator. On April 5, 1943, during maneuvers, the truck in which he was working

skidded and overturned and he was killed. The body was returned to Kalamazoo where funeral services were conducted by the Reverend Father A. G. Fowkes with interment in Riverside cemetery.

Morrison Waln Conrow was of medium height and slender build with dark brown hair and brown eyes, an unusually handsome young man. He was a diligent worker, always busy with worth while projects. His greatest hobby was building model racing automobiles. He was mechanically minded and liked handcraft of all kinds. In school he was an excellent student. Indeed, whatever he did, he did well.

In his relationship with others, he was always kind, and in his friendships he was intensely loyal. He brought comfort and cheer to his parents and was a dutiful and affectionate son. He was a faithful and loving husband and a proud father. He enjoyed every minute of the day to the fullest extent.

Morrison Waln Conrow packed his twenty-two years of life with worth while activities and reached the climax in a speeding action in training in the service of his country.

He lived in deeds, not years: in thoughts, not
breaths;

In feelings, not in figures on a dial.

He counted time by heart throbs. He most lives
Who thinks most, feels the noblest, acts the
best. - Adapted from Bailey



Mr and Mrs Frederick H Cooper

F R E D H E N R Y C O O P E R

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Fred Henry Cooper was born in Kalamazoo, November 10, 1889, son of Jennie S. Seeley and Charles R. Copper. Jennie S. Seeley was born April 6, 1852 and died July 26, 1886. Charles R. Cooper was born March 29, 1851, and died in December, 1926.

At the age of six or seven years, Fred H. Cooper went with his parents to reside in Grand Rapids, where he attended school. His first business experience was with the Grand Rapids Press, where he was employed about three years, after which he was employed in a furniture factory in Grand Rapids. While in that city he attended the Joy Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church, was fond of music and sang in the choir. He attended the Sunday school of that church five years without missing a Sunday, in recognition of which he received a Bible.

Colonel Frank Knox, Republican Vice President candidate of the Republican party attended the same church and Sunday school at that time and was very active.

In 1903, Fred came to Kalamazoo and engaged in the carpet business with his father for one year. In 1904 he entered the employ of J. R. Jones Sons and

Company where he remained for more than twenty years. In 1929 he went into the carpet business for himself and continued until his death.

Mr. Fred Cooper was a staunch Republican and was a member of the Stockbridge Methodist Episcopal Church. He was fond of all kinds of sports and enjoyed baseball, foot-ball and basket-ball.

Mr. Cooper was married twice. The first wife was Florence Esther Burdick, whom he married September 18, 1902. She died February 22, 1905. They were the parents of Harold Wesley, born August 20, 1903, residing in Grand Rapids, Michigan; and Fernwood Blossom, who was born November 9, 1904, and died in infancy.

Fred Cooper's second wife was Anna Timmer, born in Montague, Michigan, September 25, 1885. They were married June 24, 1909, and were the parents of the following children: June Marjorie, born June 8, 1910, married Virgil Allen Steffey May 13, 1933; Frederick Henry Jr., born November 20, 1911; Ruth Constance, born November 17, 1913; James Fennimore, born April 16, 1915; Evelyn Jeanette, born November 3, 1917.

Charles R. Cooper married a second time. His second wife was Mildred E. Watson, born September 6,

1865. They were married September 19, 1888. She was born in Decatur, Michigan, and now resides in Detroit. They were the parents of three children: Harvey D., who was born March 22, 1890, and died April, 1892; Watson L., born December 14, 1892, married Anna Runan and resides in Evanston, Illinois; George Ford, born June 28, 1905, resides in Chicago.

By his first marriage Charles R. Cooper was the father of Fred and also the following: Pearl May, born September 30, 1877, married Robert J. Goodfellow of Washington State and died May 27, 1910; Maud, born September 11, 1882, married George L. Trombley, who was born on a farm near Detroit, Michigan; Lulu E. Hope, born February 19, 1886, and died July 39, 1886. Maud died in July 1933.

Fred Henry Cooper died suddenly, while at work, August 7, 1936. The funeral was conducted by the Reverend R. D. Wearne and burial was made in Mount Ever-Rest.

Written August 15, 1936



L.F. Robinson
8/29/29

W. B. Cooper.

WILLARD BAILEY COOPER.

Willard Bailey Cooper, was born on November 28, 1857 in Dowagiac, Michigan, the son of John E. Cooper and Mary Defendorf Cooper. She was the daughter of Jacob and Mary Defendorf. The father of John E. Cooper, and grandfather of Willard Bailey Cooper, was William Cooper of Albany County, New York. The Coopers formerly came from England.

Willard B. spent his childhood in Dowagiac, where he attended the public schools. When about 12 years of age, he with his parents, moved to Porter Township, Van Buren County. After two or three years the family moved to Lawton for about two years and returned to the farm in Porter Township. He remained on this farm until after his marriage to Sarah E. Fradenburg of Lawton on November 3, 1879.

Shortly after they were married they moved to Lawton where they resided ten years. From Lawton they moved to Paw Paw where they lived twenty-two years. From Paw Paw they moved to Kalamazoo where they lived the remainder of their lives. Sarah Fradenburg Cooper, passed away on February 9, 1920 in Kalamazoo. They were the parents of two children a daughter Nellie, now Mrs. Claire Gibson of Kalamazoo and a son, Howard J. Cooper, also of

Kalamazoo.

Willard B. Cooper was engaged in the plating business while living in Lawton and while living in Paw Paw he owned a bakery. In Kalamazoo he was District Agent for the Standard Savings and Loan Association of Detroit with which firm he had been associated for twenty-five years.

In politics Mr. Cooper was an active Republican. He was interested in Civic affairs and stood in high esteem among those who knew him. He was an active member of the First Methodist Episcopal Church for many years where he served as a member of the Official Board and a leader in Methodist work.

Mr. Cooper died suddenly on Tuesday evening, July 3, 1931, at his home 413 West Vine Street. He is survived by the widow, Alice Smith Cooper, whom he married on September 12, 1922, the daughter, Mrs. Claire Gibson and the son, Howard J. Cooper. There are six grand-children, Robert, Donald, Marion, Dorothy and Howard Jr., Cooper and Carola Ruth Gibson. One grandson, Arthur Gibson, died when a small boy. Funeral services were conducted by the Reverend D. Stanley Coors and burial was made in Riverside Cemetery.



H. R. Robinson

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Mrs. Sarah Cooper

S A R A H F R A D E N B U R G C O O P E R

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Sarah Elizabeth Fradenburg was born at Fortsville, New York, the daughter of Walter and Lucy Thompson Fradenburg.

Sarah attended school at Fortsville until she was eleven or twelve years of age when she came with her parents to Lawton, Michigan, and attended school in the latter place.

Sarah had two brothers, Tobias and Henry, and five sisters: Mrs. Phoebe Titus, Mrs. Martha Mitchell, Mrs. Mary Van Vleet, Mrs. Emma Irwin and Mrs. Anna Hayne.

Sarah Fradenburg married Willard Bailey Cooper November 3, 1879 and began house-keeping on a farm near Lawton, Michigan.

Shortly after her marriage she went with her husband to live in Lawton where they resided for ten years. From Lawton they moved to Paw Paw where they lived twenty-two years. From Paw Paw they went to Kalamazoo where they resided until her death February 9, 1920.

Mrs. Sarah Cooper was the mother of two children, a daughter, Nellie, who married Claire Gibson of Kalamazoo, and a son, Howard J. Cooper, also of

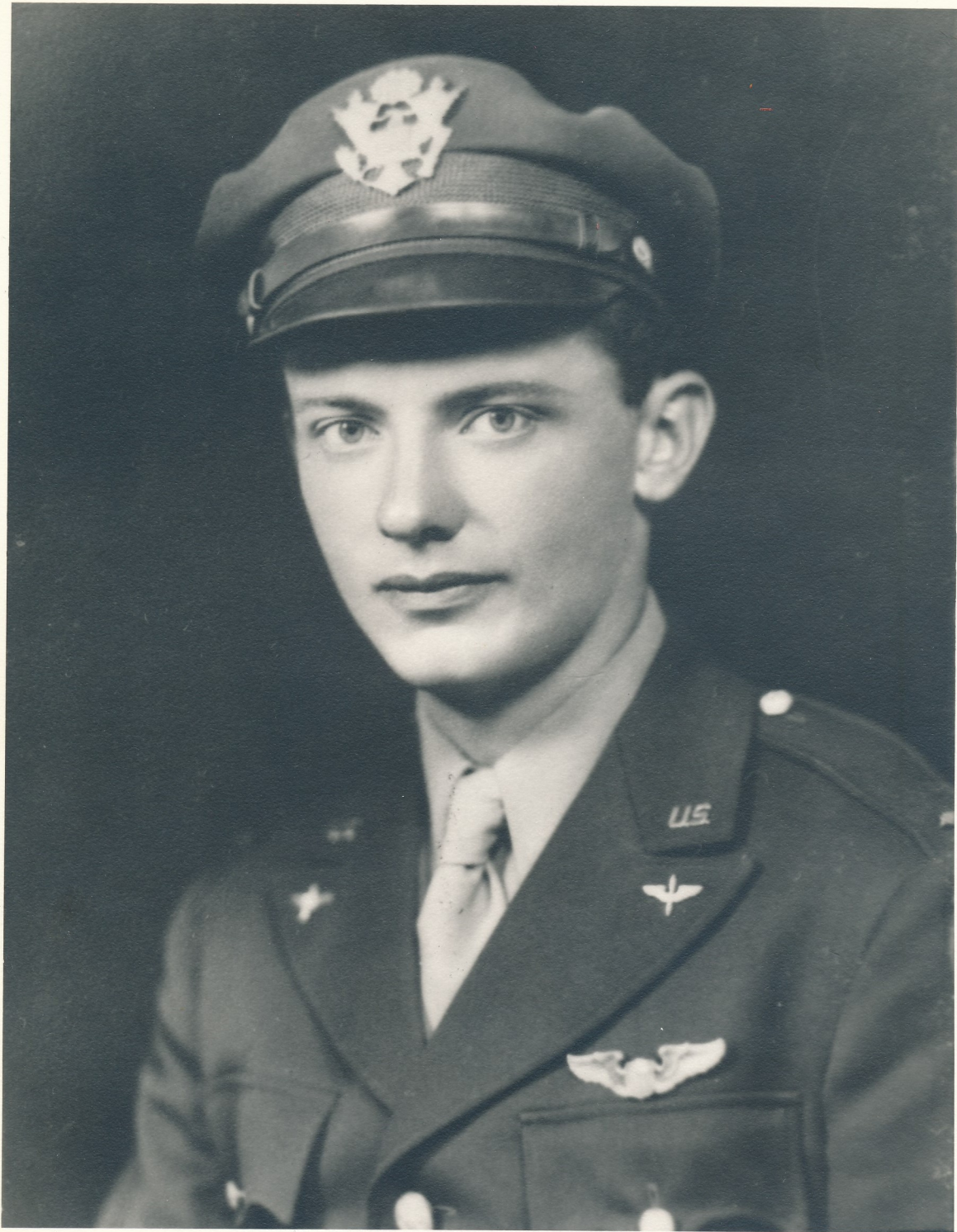
Kalamazoo

Mrs. Sarah Cooper was a very sweet, lovable person, with a keen sense of humor and enjoyed playing clever jokes on her relatives and friends.

She was a wonderful woman in her home and was untiring in her efforts for the welfare and happiness of her family.

She was especially fond of Howard and had great faith in his business undertakings. She liked to tell how, when he was a very small boy, he started trading with a jack-knife without blades and ended up with a bicycle. On one occasion she wrote a poem expressing her mother interest in the son she admired and loved. The poem appears at the beginning of the life story of Howard J. Cooper in this collection.

James Frederick Cornish



J A M E S F R E D E R I C K C O R N I S H
1 9 2 3 - 1 9 4 5

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Flight Officer James Frederick Cornish was killed in a plane crash at Dale Mabry Field, Tallahassee, Florida, Friday afternoon, June 22, 1945. He was a P-51 fighter pilot instructing at the Field. While flying a volunteer mission his plane developed motor failure and he was killed in the crash landing which followed.

His body was escorted to Kalamazoo, Michigan, by Lieutenant Robert Barnes of Dale Mabry Field. Military rites were conducted at 2 P. M. Tuesday, June 26, 1945, at the Sumption funeral home and burial was in Riverside cemetery in charge of military personnel from Fort Custer.

Birth and Education

James was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, June 30, 1923, son of Frank L. Cornish, Jr., of English descent, who was born in Biddeford, Maine, March 21, 1895. His father, also named Frank, was an engineer on the Panama Canal project. James' father came to Kalamazoo, Michigan, to attend high school and decided to make Kalamazoo his home and has lived here ever since.

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1923 - 1945

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school and decided to make Kalamazoo his home and
has lived here ever since.

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James' mother was Pauline Beerstecher Cornish, who was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, October 23, 1897, of French ancestry. Pauline was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank H. Beerstecher, who were life long residents of Kalamazoo, Michigan, and both of them were born in this state.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank L. Cornish, Jr., were married in Memphis, Tennessee, June 14, 1919, and made their home in Kalamazoo, Michigan, most of the time on Parkwood drive. They reside now, in 1946, at 224. They also became the parents of:

Frank Lewis III, born March 10, 1927, who at this time is in the United States Navy and is at The Great Lakes Training Station, having been in service for a year and a half; and

Carol Frances, born [REDACTED].

James attended the Parkwood School in Kalamazoo through the first six grades and then attended the Vine Street School through the eighth grade. He then went to the State High School, where he was graduated in 1941, after which he matriculated at Western Michigan College of Education in the fall of 1941 and remained until he joined the Army Air Force service February 19, 1943, having enlisted October 1, 1942.

James took his basic training at Miami, Florida, academic training at Hiram College, Hiram, Ohio,

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classification and primary at San Antonio and Sherman Field, Texas, basic flight training at Stamford, Texas, and advanced flight training at Foster Field, Victoria, Texas. He received his flight officer's commission and silver pilot's wings from Foster Field in August, 1944. He was then assigned to specialized training on P-51 fighters at Paige Field, Fort Myers, Florida. Later he received overseas orders and went to New York port of embarkation, when V-E Day changed his overseas orders and he was returned to Dale Mabry Field, Tallahassee, Florida, where he had been an instructor, and where he met his death.

Marriage

November 18, 1944, James Frederick Cornish was married to Peggy Ann Hipkind, who was born in Peru, Indiana, December 17, 1924, daughter of Stephen L. Hipkind, who was born in Wabash, Indiana, and Agnes C. Brennan Hipkind, who was also born in Peru, Indiana, in October, 1900. Peggy attended St. Augustine Roman Catholic Parochial School through the grades and was graduated from that High School in 1942.

James and Peggy Ann were married in the chapel at Notre Dame, Indiana, by the Reverend T. J. Brennan, an uncle of the bride. After their

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marriage, Mr. and Mrs. James Cornish left for Fort Myers, Florida, where Jim was in training. Peggy stayed near him through the months until his plane crashed and since then has made her home in Kalamazoo, Michigan. She has a daughter, Marcia Ann, born [REDACTED].

Personal Characteristics

Jim greatly enjoyed the out of doors and was an ardent nature lover. He collected butterflies and watched and studied bees - anything living was his delight. He always had a dog. He had one named "Pat" and found much enjoyment in his companionship.

He liked trains and enjoyed watching them come into the station. Like most boys his interest in games centered in the great American sport of baseball. When he was a little boy he had a baseball suit and would coax the members of his family to take his picture posing in this suit. He watched games and listened to the radio announce the plays of the major league teams.

He was interested in engineering and liked motion. His last and great interest was flying, so it was not strange that he chose that branch of military service.

He had a flair for finding pet nicknames to characterize the members of his family. When his

marriage, Mr. and Mrs. James Gornish left for Fort Myers, Florida, where Jim was in training. Peggy stayed near him through the months until his plane crashed and since then has made her home in Kalamazoo, Michigan. She has a daughter, Harold Ann, born December 24, 1945.

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sister was a baby with new shoes he called her "Goody Two Shoes." He also had special names for his pals. He had a talent for drawing and amused his friends with his caricatures.

James was five feet ten inches tall of medium weight and had dark brown hair and gray eyes. He could be very serious when seriousness was in order and was very gay and care free when occasion called for gaiety. He was self reliant and dependable. Family duties such as caring for the flowers and lawn, Jim took with more dependability than most young lads. He did his part to make the home attractive.

In his younger days he attended the Presbyterian Church School and usually attended that Church, but he was baptized in the Congregational Church.

He showed good taste in his dress and was fastidious regarding his personal appearance. He was calm and quiet in manner, sound in his judgment and just and fair in his estimate of others. This was Jim!

Jim's plane is down, the sun is in the west, but the brave young spirit of this devoted son, brother, young husband and father soars up above the clouds.

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by a flyer who also lost his life:

"Oh! I have slipped the surly bands of earth

And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings!

Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling

mirth

Of sun-split clouds - and done a hundred things

You have not dreamed of - wheeled and soared and

swung

High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,

I've chased the shouting winds along and flung

My eager craft through footless halls of air.

Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue

I've topped the windswept heights with easy

grace

Where never lark, or even eagle flew -

And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod

The high untrespassed sanctity of space

Put out my hand and touched the

Face of God. "

John McGee

154
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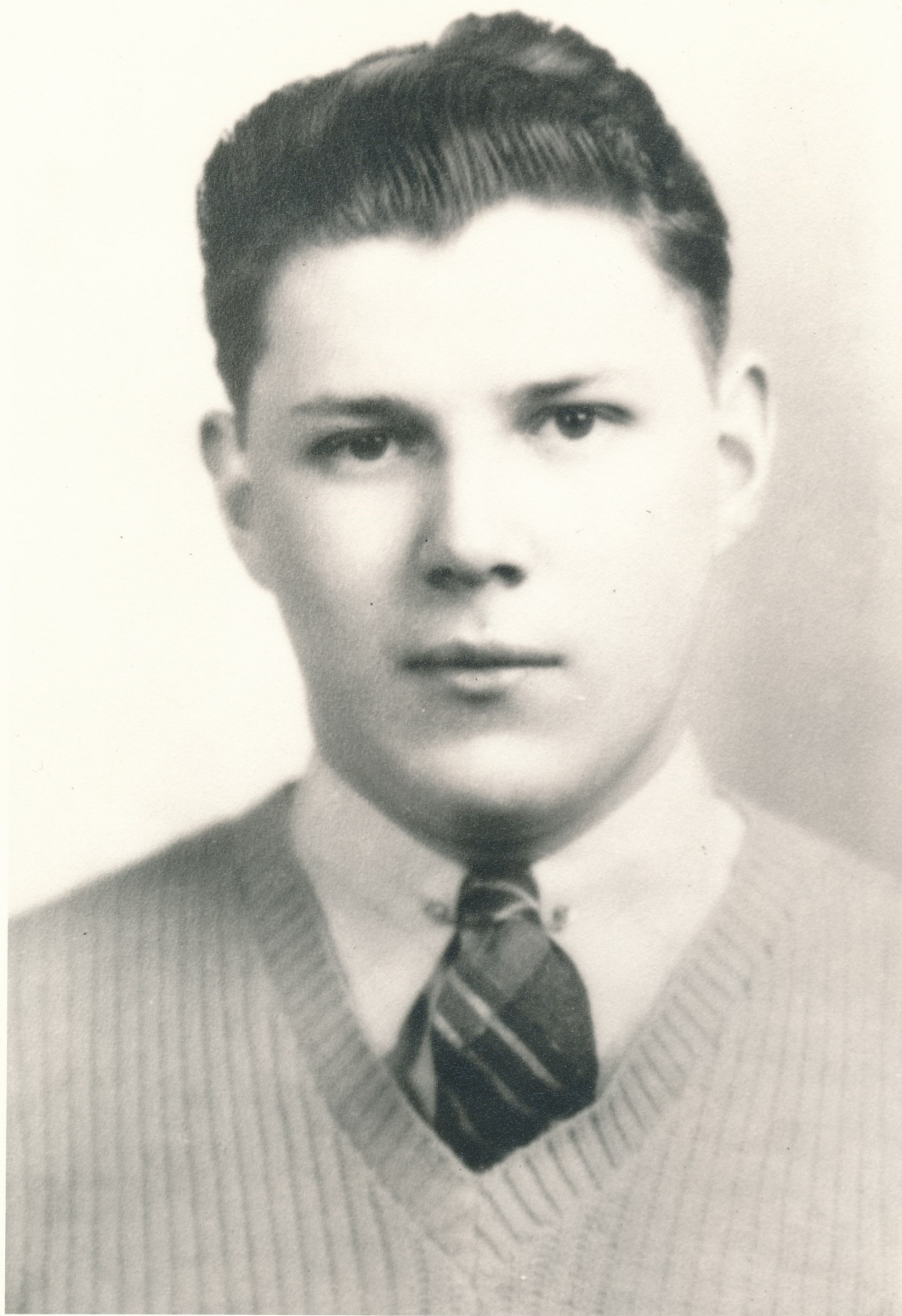
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D U R A Y E D G A R C O W G I L L

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Duray Edgar Cowgill laid down his life for his country June 24, 1944. Mrs. Virginia Carter Cowgill, his nineteen year old wife was so informed by the War Department of the United States on July 8, 1944. He was killed in action at Saipan in the Marianas where he fought as an infantry rifleman.

Duray was usually called "Dick" and was born in Montrose, Michigan, February 24, 1923, the son of Clarence and Vera Iotta Lomison Cowgill of mixed ancestry. He had one brother, Wyburn, born March 15, 1914, who married Alta Conklin, assistant supervisor of nurses in surgery in Bronson Hospital, and they became the parents of Bernard Charles June 21, 1943. Duray never saw this nephew, but he frequently mentioned him in his letters.

While Duray was yet an infant, the family moved to Kalamazoo, Michigan, and "Dick" attended the Vine Street and Central High Schools, after which he worked at a service station and later at the Checker Cab factory where he remained until his draft number was called.

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He left Kalamazoo February 24, 1942, for Camp Grant, Illinois, was assigned to the Infantry and then sent to Camp Wolters, Mineral Wells, Texas, for basic training. In May, 1942, he was transferred to Oahu Island, Hawaiians, and was given special training there.

He saw combat in the Bismarck Archipelago north of New Guinea and on Makin in the Marshall Islands, also on other islands. He lost his life on Saipan, where he fought with Company K, 27th Division, 106th Infantry. This finest of New York's Divisions was practically wiped out in that battle.

Marriage

On June 8, 1942, Duray Edgar Cowgill was married to Miss Virginia Lee Carter, the daughter of Mrs. Olive Caldwell of Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Virginia was born in Owosso, Michigan, September 21, 1925, and has three brothers, Gerald, Laurence and Richard, and three sisters, Lenora, Phyllis and Betty.

Virginia attended Roosevelt and Central High Schools in Kalamazoo, Michigan, where she and "Dick" became childhood sweethearts and they laughingly remarked that they "brought each other up." They were married by the Reverend Doctor Alfred F. Way, Superintendent of Bronson Hospital. For a time

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Mr. and Mrs. Cowgill made their home in Highland Park, near Detroit, Michigan, where "Dick" worked in the Ford plant.

Personal Characteristics

Duray was five feet six inches tall, of stocky build, physically strong, and enjoyed playing football and other out-door sports. He participated in little car races and liked nothing better than to show how fast he could go. He liked the movies and bowling.

He was a good conversationalist and could discuss many subjects intelligently. He was of a happy nature, cheery and optimistic. Buddies wrote that they never would have gotten through basic training without him and his slogan, "There's a silver lining to every cloud." He had the ability to lead and had the rare gift of knowing how far to go with his suggestions.

"Dick" was good company, affectionate and kind to his parents and devotedly fond of his wife whom he lovingly called "Stinkie." He was always planning what he would do when he returned to his young wife.

The following excerpts from letters show the high esteem in which Pfc. Duray Edgar Cowgill was held:

General Marshall said:

"Your husband fought valiantly in a supreme hour of his country's need. His memory will live in the grateful heart of our nation."

1st Lt., Infantry Commanding, Jefferson F. Noakes wrote:

"Duray was held in high regard by all members of this command. He was a splendid soldier, a willing worker and a reliable friend. His loss is deeply felt by all his friends."

Paul B. Eilers, Chaplain (Captain) 106th Infantry wrote:

"I wish to take this opportunity to express to you my deepest and most sincere sympathy on the loss of your husband, Duray E. Cowgill, Army Serial Number 36452089.

"Words are so empty at a time such as this, and yet, let me assure you that your grief can well be tempered by many comforts and consolations, especially from the Word and promises of our Lord. Duray made the supreme sacrifice for his Country, and you have every reason to feel proud of him and of the fine American Spirit which he has shown.

.....

"Your husband was killed instantly, not having to suffer long, for which we are thankful to our Lord.

.....

"He received a simple and very impressive funeral in a Christian and Military manner. The cemetery is ideally located and will receive perpetual care. You can be assured that his final resting place is worthy of a fine and noble soldier. The members of his unit, I am sure, share your sense of loss, and join me in praying that God may grant him happiness for all eternity, and for you and yours, peace of mind and Divine Consolation from on High."

(This was written in October 1944)

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"Words are so empty at a time such as this, and yet, let me assure you that your grief can well be tempered by many comforts and consolations, especially from the Word and promises of our Lord. Darryl made the supreme sacrifice for his Country, and you have every reason to feel proud of him and of the fine American spirit which he has shown."

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(This was written in October 1944)



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Ida Mae White Craig and Family

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I D A M A E W H I T E C R A I G

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Ida Mae White was born December 31, 1881, daughter of Permelia Kinney and David Embley White of Scotch and Irish descent. She lived in Mendon until she was fourteen years of age when the family moved to Three Rivers, Michigan. She attended school and was an honor student in Mendon and Three Rivers, after which she found employment with the Kellogg Strawberry Company in their office at Three Rivers. Later she was employed by the Quincy Knitting Company of Three Rivers.

September 16, 1902, Ida Mae White married Floyd M. Craig, born September 16, 1880, at Fisher's Corners, south of Quincy in Algansee Township. He was the son of Jennie Bennett and Milton U. Craig. When Floyd was about four years of age the family moved to Coldwater, Michigan, where they resided a few years and then moved to Three Rivers, Michigan, where he attended school. When a young man he learned to cut meat and has sold meat and groceries all his life. From 1913 to 1915, he had a store at Madison, north of Bronson, Michigan. He then went to Coldwater

where he remained until 1929, after which he came to Kalamazoo and cut meat for the Lawrence Post Meat Shoppe.

Mr. and Mrs. Craig were the parents of a daughter, Carlene Mae, born April 17, 1911, graduated from Coldwater high school, married August 27, 1933, Richard V. Snyder, born July 9, 1911, Bachelor of Arts from Kalamazoo College and studying for Masters degree at the University of Michigan.

The family were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Coldwater and Mrs. Craig was very active in the Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Societies and the Ladies Aid. She held offices as President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Ladies Aid, also as Division chairman and at one time had charge of the Home Guards. She also sang in the choir.

Mrs. Craig was always alert to be of service to her neighbors whenever they were in need or were sick. She was a most excellent wife and mother, a devout and faithful member of the church and greatly loved by all who knew her.

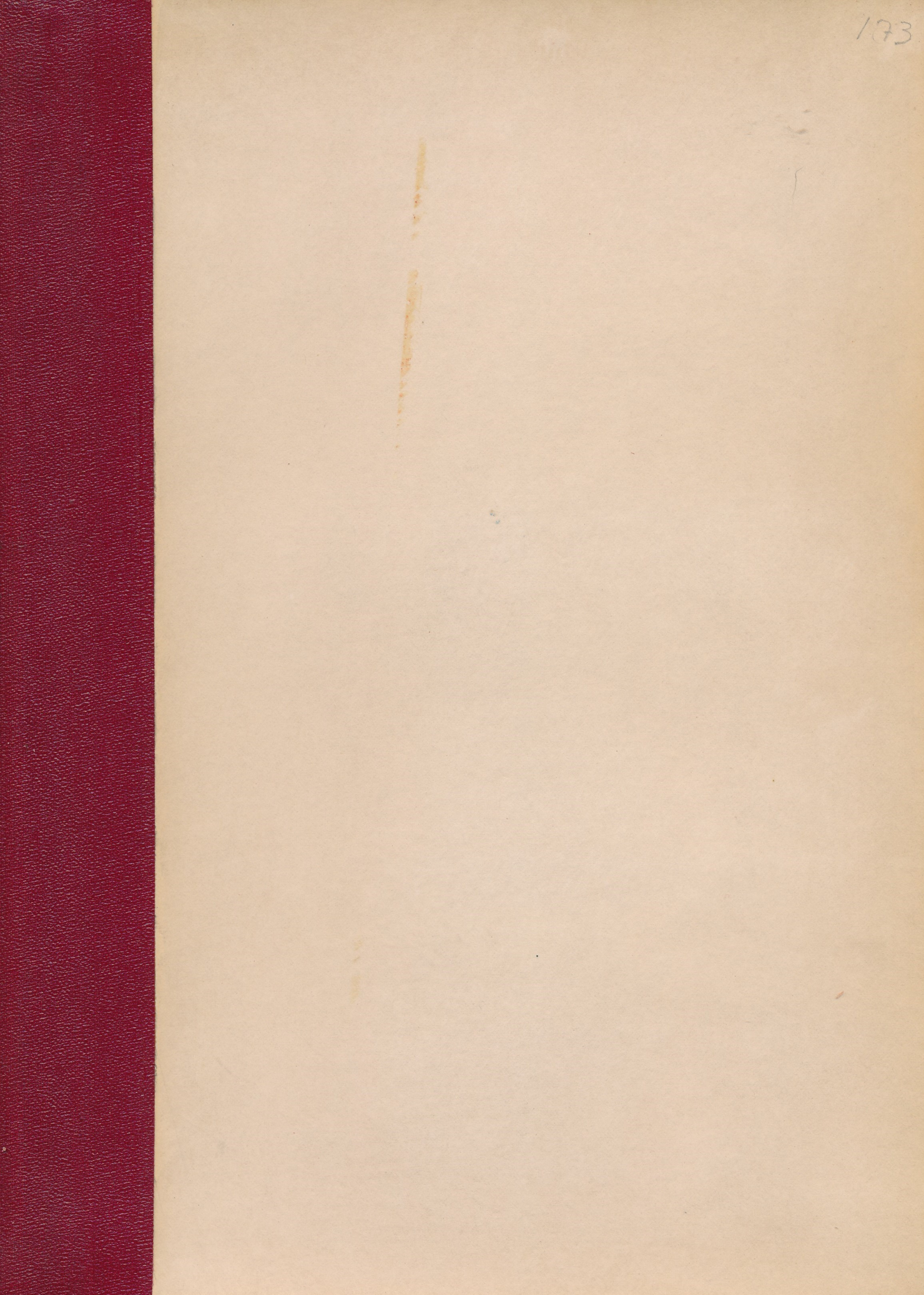
Mr. A. L. Heimbach, of Coldwater, who was her teacher at one time, wrote the following tribute:

"At fourteen years of age, May White attended school at West Mendon. As a student she was bright,

keen, alert and studious; always an honor student. May was a charming, beautiful girl. Her natural charm and beauty were enhanced by the charm and beauty of a fine Christian character. She was possessed of a kind, happy, loving disposition, always thoughtful and considerate of her parents, brothers, sisters and friends. To know May was to love her."

Death came to her in an automobile accident near Parma, Michigan, October 4, 1936. The funeral was conducted by the Reverend W. W. Slee, of Coldwater, Michigan, and burial was in the Craig family lot in Fisher cemetery, Algansee Township.

Written October 31, 1936







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